

Interaction and Competition with Other Wildlife

What is Known about the Interactions Between Bison and Other Wildlife?

Bison evolved alongside other native ungulate species and do co-exist with a number of native ungulates in parks, such as Yellowstone National Park.

Bison tend to ignore other ungulate species except when closely approached during feeding.

Due to the limited number of free-ranging herds, interactions between free-ranging bison and other native ungulates have not been extensively studied.

How Much Competition for Forage and Habitat Occurs Between Bison and Other Wildlife?

Bison differ from mule deer, moose, antelope, and bighorn sheep in their habitat selection and food habits.

Bison differ from bighorn sheep, mule deer, and antelope in their tolerance of snow.



How Much Competition for Forage and Habitat Occurs Between Bison and Elk?

There is a considerable amount of overlap in the distribution and food habits of bison and elk on Yellowstone National Park's northern range; however, there are apparent differences in their habitat selection.

Bison can cope with deeper snow than elk and thus feed on preferred mesic grasslands and sedge-grass meadows after the areas become unavailable to elk.

Would the Restoration of Bison Result in a Loss or Reduction of Hunting Opportunities for Other Species?

Bison and other species co-exist in many locations. The potential that bison could impact other species will be examined during the development of the programmatic environmental impact statement.



**Montana Fish,
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